

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 PER-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 /034 W

-----310951Z 002247 /17

P R 310650Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7400

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM: MALAYSIA

REF: HONG KONG 6116 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY ENDORSES HONG KONG SUGGESTION THAT EXPERIENCED AID REFUGEE OFFICER BE SENT HERE IF CONSULAR OFFICER NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OR EXTENDED TDY. MESSAGE ALSO REVIEWS PRESENT ORGANIZATION FOR HANDLING REFUGEES, K.L.'S PRESENT PERSONNEL SITUATION, AND REQUESTS THAT DOUGLAS PARADIS, CONSULAR OFFICER, CURRENTLY IN K.L. ON TDY FROM BANGKOK BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN UNTIL AID REFUGEE OFFICER OR CONSULAR OFFICER ARRIVES. SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT OAKLEY WHO AGREES WITH PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HONG KONG'S SUPPORT AND ITS INTEREST IN THE OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS WE ARE ENCOUNTERING IN HANDLING REFUGEES. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO GIVE
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HIGH PRIORITY TO THIS PROBLEM AT SOME SACRIFICE TO OUR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ENDORSE COMPLETELY HONG KONG'S SUGGESTION THAT IF A CONSULAR OFFICER IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR EIEHTER PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OR AN EXTENDED TDY, AN EXPERIENCED AID REFUGEE OFFICER BE SENT.

3. IT MAY BE HELPFUL FOR ALL ADDRESSEES AND PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW BRIEFLY OUR RESOURCE SITUATION AND HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED TO HANDLE REFUGEES:

A. WE HAVE ONE FULL TIME CONSULAR OFFICER WHO IS BEING ASSISTED BY A ROTATIONAL JUNIOR OFFICER FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING IN OCTOBER. EVEN WITHOUT REFUGEES, THESE TWO OFFICERS WOULD HAVE A FULL TIME JOB, PARTICULARLY DURING THESE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN WE ARE LITERALLY SWAMPED WITH APPLICANTS FOR STUDENT VISAS. (DEPARTMENT SHOULD REVIEW OUR LAST TWO CONSULAR PACKAGES.)

B. LAST WEEK A TDY CONSULAR OFFICER ARRIVED FROM THAILAND TO ASSIST US. SINCE HE HAS HAD CONSULAR EXPERIENCE, I HAVE MOVED HIM INTO THE CONSULAR SECTION AND THE ROTATIONAL OFFICER WHO HAS NOW HAD A GREAT DEAL OF REFUGEE EXPERIENCE, OUR FULL TIME REFUGEE OFFICER.

C. THE REFUGEE OFFICER IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED WITH THE VOLAG WHO HAS SET UP AN OFFICE NEAR OUR BUILDING AND WHO IS TRAINING A SMALL LOCAL STAFF. THAT STAFF IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY USEFUL AND OPERATIONAL, BUT A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN THE VOLAG IS AWAY (AS HE MUST BE WITH REFUGEES SCATTERED OVER HUNDREDS OF MILES OF COASTLINE) WE DO NOT HAVE A RESPONSIBLE PERSON TO RUN HIS OFFICE. WE ARE NOW TRYING TO LOCATE AND RECRUIT SOMEONE COMING OUT OF PEACE CORPS TO RESOLVE THAT PROBLEM.

D. WHOEVER (CONSULAR OFFICER OR AID REFUGEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICER) COMES WILL TAKE OVER "REFUGEE OFFICER" SLOT. UNTIL THAT OFFICER ARRIVES IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT DOUGLAS PARADIS, OUR TDY-ER FROM BANGKOK, REMAIN.

4. IN EVALUATING SITUATION IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE HOW LIMITED OUR RESOURCES ARE. POLITICAL SECTION (UNTIL NOW, HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH REFUGEES) HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ONE OFFICER AND ONE SECRETARY, LEAVING TWO FSO'S AND ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY. ONE OF THE FSO'S WILL BECOME CHARGE AS I LEAVE ON DIRECT TRANSFER FOR ANKARA WHERE I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE EQUALLY PRESSING PROBLEMS. OUR ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WILL DEPART ON HOME LEAVE AND TRANSFER JUNE 9, REDUCING THAT BUSY SECTION TO TWO FSO'S. ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN AT POST TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS AND WILL GO ON HOME LEAVE WHENEVER THE NEW ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ARRIVES. THE ADMIN SECTION IS AT ITS LIMIT WITH HANDLING DEPARTURES, A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS (INCLUDING AN UPCOMING CABINET LEVEL VISIT), AND PREPARING FOR A NEW AMBASSADOR. AFTER MY DEPARTURE THERE WILL NOT BE A DCM UNTIL LATE IN THE SUMMER.

5. MY PURPOSE IN LAYING THIS OUT IN SOME DETAIL IS
SIMPLY TO STRESS AGAIN THAT WE REALLY DO NEED HELP
AND THAT WE HAVE REACHED THE LIMIT IN RE-PROGRAMMING
PEOPLE HERE. WE CAN GET ALONG AS LONG AS DOUGLAS
PARADIS REMAINS OR IF HE IS REPLACED. IF HE IS REMOVED
BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF AN AID REFUGEE OFFICER OR A
CONSULAR OFFICER, WE WILL BE IN TROUBLE.

6. I SHOULD ALSO SAY A WORD ABOUT UNHCR. THEY ARE
COOPERATING AND DOING THEIR BEST, BUT WITH THREE REPS
COVERING THREE COUNTRIES, THEY ARE CONSTANTLY ENGAGED
IN FIGHTING FIRES, E.G., ROLAND, LEAP DAL, AND OTHER
EMERGENCY CASES, AND ARE SIMPLY UNABLE TO DO MORE THAN
A PRELIMINARY SCREENING OF REFUGEES WHILE KEEPING
PRESSURE ON THE GOM AND ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN
THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST ASYLUM. THERE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
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SITUATION HERE WITHOUT UNHCR, BUT AS OF TODAY THERE ARE
2,000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA AND MORE ARRIVING;
WE CANNOT EXPECT MORE OUT OF THEM THAN WE ARE GETTING.

7. FOR HONG KONG: WE HAVE CONSIDERED QUESTION OF WHETHER
LOCATING A SECOND VOLAG IN SARAWAK WOULD RELIEVE THAT
SITUATION AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT KEY IS HIRING SOMEONE
ALREADY HERE, PROBABLY FROM PC TO HELP BEERY SO THAT HE
CAN SPEND MORE TIME IN EAST MALAYSIA. WE ALSO BELIEVE
THAT AS REFUGEES START MOVING OUT IN REGULAR FOLOW,
ATTITUDES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY IN SARAWAK
WHICH CONTROLS ITS OWN IMMIGRATION, WILL IMPROVE.

8. FOR HONG KONG: KUALA LUMPUR'S STATISTICS REQUESTED
PARA 3 REFTTEL WILL FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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